

# Experiment with the Science Fair!

Wednesday, April 12, 2017  
6:30 – 8:00 p.m.  
Elementary School Large Gym

**Plant some seeds and see how they grow! Get attracted to magnets!  
Shake up a potion! Explore the universe!  
Join the fun at the Science Fair!**

The Science Fair is a non-competitive event for kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade.  
Students pick a topic, conduct an experiment, and share their results.  
Each year an amazing variety of projects are presented. *It's loads of fun!*

If you have any questions contact the PTA Science Fair Coordinators:  
Jennifer Hampston (765-3112 or jenhampston@yahoo.com)  
or Nicole Munro (senoramunro@gmail.com)



## Science Fair Sign Up

**SIGN UP DEADLINE:**  
Wednesday 4/5/17

Student Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

Project Title \_\_\_\_\_

General Subject     Plants/Wildlife/Biology     Chemistry     Earth and Space  
                           Energy and Magnetism     Physical Science     The Human Body  
                           Science Inquiry     Other/Not sure

Do you need an electrical outlet?  Yes  No

**NOTE: Please be sure to follow the basic guidelines for all projects listed on page 2. In particular, students using obvious allergens in projects (e.g., peanuts, tree nuts, milk) may not bring the actual items to the science fair (pictures are acceptable).**

Parent/Guardian's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Yes! I'd like to volunteer to help!    E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Set Up (5 p.m.)     Event Sign-in (6:10 p.m.)     Clean Up (next day, at 2:00pm)

Visiting Scientist (specialty): \_\_\_\_\_

**Return this form to the SCIENCE FAIR BOX in the Teacher Workroom.**

**For the safety of and fairness to all students participating in the science fair, please follow these guidelines when preparing your projects.**

**Guidelines for all projects:**

1. Projects need to fit on a school desk-size area. Display boards are available at office supply and craft stores; these are optional but many students use them.
2. Open flame/heat sources are not allowed at the science fair.
3. Do not use obvious allergens (e.g., peanuts, tree nuts, milk) in projects (pictures are acceptable if any allergen is used in the project).
4. Live animals are not allowed at the science fair; there are too many people/too much commotion for animals to be safe and comfortable (pictures are acceptable).
5. Erupting volcanoes are not allowed at science fair (but pictures are acceptable).
6. Food may not be given out to visitors at science fair.
7. Materials list: Any science fair student bringing anything other than the project display board with anything other than paper on it should complete a materials list and send it in to the science fair coordinator.
8. No glass

## **MORE ABOUT THE SCIENCE FAIR**

**Who can participate?** We encourage students at all levels to participate. Even kindergarten and first grade students can conduct simple experiments, sort and present collections, or investigate a topic of interest. Family participation is welcome for younger students. Students may also work together, but we recommend no more than two students per project.

**What happens during the Science Fair?** The Science Fair is **Wednesday, April 12, from 6:30-8:00p.m.**, with an additional showing of the exhibits on Thursday, April 13th for the elementary school. During the event, students display their work and answer questions about their projects. Several visiting scientists also attend to talk with students. Everyone has a chance to walk around and see the various projects and each participant receives a ribbon for his/her participation.

**How much time do projects involve?** Many experiments can be completed in several hours, while more involved projects may take several weeks to complete. If time is of the essence, choose a simple experiment that doesn't involve making observations over a long period of time. All of the projects should be presented on a display poster (see attached for setting it up), which also takes a bit of time to put together. Time management is essential, especially for more involved projects.

**What if I don't know anything about science??** Don't worry! Think of science as a way to find out all sorts of things about the world, rather than a set of complex facts or theories. The science fair is about investigating topics that interest your child or, perhaps, finding a topic that sparks your child's interest.

**Need Help or Ideas?** There's lots of good information and support available should you need help:

- **Get help from the Science Lab!** Our science lab instructor, Ms. Hendley, is more than willing to help children develop ideas for science projects, as well as to help with the scientific process. Ms. Hendley's email is [shendley@voorheesville.org](mailto:shendley@voorheesville.org). You can also send in a note for Ms. Hendley with your child and his/her teacher will make sure it gets to her.
- **Check out the library!** The public library has a number of books on science fair projects and science topics. They have set up a special display of books to help students! Look for the display or in the Juvenile science section (500s) or ask the reference librarian for help. You can also check out books on your science fair topic to get background information.
- **Use the Web!** There are a number of informative Web sites on science fair topics. Try these or use your search engine and type in "science fair project ideas."  
<http://www.education.com/science-fair/>  
<http://www.all-science-fair-projects.com/>  
<http://sciencefair.math.iit.edu/projects/>

**A few things to keep in mind...**

1. Start with a question. What are YOU curious about?
2. Discuss your project with your parents before you begin.
3. The safety guidelines on page 2.
4. Your display should generally be the size of a desk top (see the Project Display Layout sample).
5. It is recommended to follow the standard scientific method. Younger students may do more descriptive or exploratory work, but we encourage the scientific method as much as possible.

**When are projects picked up?** Please pick up science fair projects on **Thursday, April 13th after school**. We do not have space to store projects and those left behind may get lost or broken.

## Have fun!

### What is the Scientific Method?

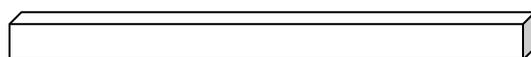
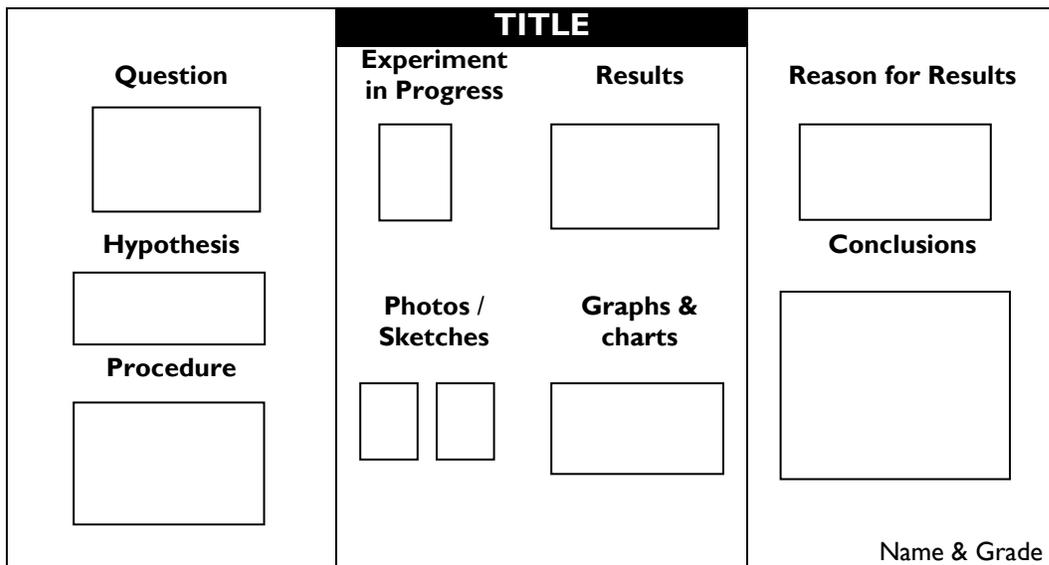
Students learn the scientific method during their regular Science Lab and are encouraged to put it into practice when completing their science fair projects. The Scientific Method has five main parts:

1. The Question (may be the title of the project)
2. The Hypothesis- the predicted answer to the question
3. The Experiment- to generate results either in support of or against the hypothesis
4. The Data- This is the nuts and bolts—the supporting evidence generated by the experiment.
5. The Conclusion, drawn from the results. The conclusion is the answer to the question posed (Was the hypothesis correct or not; if not, why not?)

### Project Display Layout- Sample

Sharing your results with others at the Science Fair can be as much fun as performing the experiment. Make sure your presentation is easy to read and clearly explains what you did and what results you obtained. Be prepared to answer questions.

Display your project in a similar fashion as the sample project display layout here. You can purchase folding table-top display boards or foam board (typically students use tri-fold boards) at stores like JoAnn's in Colonie, A.C. Moore in Latham, and Michaels at Crossgates Commons.



Equipment